

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-22 are pending.

Claims 1-6, 9-12 and 15-22 stand rejected.

Claims 1-6, 9-12 and 15-22 have cancelled without prejudice

Claims 7, 8, 13 and 14 are hereby submitted for review and consideration.

No new matter has been added.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claim 22 for containing minor informalities. Applicants have cancelled this claim, and respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

In paragraph 7 of the Office Action the Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Davis (U.S. Patent No. 6,058,478). In paragraph 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Spies et al. (U.S. Reissue Patent No. RE 38,070). In paragraph 10 of the Office Action the Examiner has rejected claims 2-6, 9-12, 15-19 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatenable over Spies in view of Davis. The Examiner has noted in paragraph 11 that claims 7, 8, 13 and 14 are allowed.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's contentions and submit the following remarks in response.

Although Applicants disagree with the Examiner's contentions regarding the rejection of claims 1-6, 9-12 and 15-22, for the purposes of expediting the prosecution of this application, those claims have been cancelled without prejudice, so as to allow claims 7, 8, 13 and 14 to proceed to issue. Cancelled claims 1-6, 9-12 and 15-22 are

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Amendment dated March 30, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of January 26, 2004

being pursued in a timely filed continuation application.

It is further noted that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed on September 23, 1999, citing to two references. However, we have not received an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 form. For the Examiner's convenience, we have attached a copy of the form PTO-1449, the stamped return postcard and the two references for his review. Applicants respectfully request that the initialed form PTO-1449 be included with the Notice of Allowance.


In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as claimed in claims 7, 8, 13 and 14 is now in condition for allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of this application he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted

SOFER & HAROUN, LLP

Dated: 3/30/04

By:

  
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